

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-pointing device, comprising:
a first illumination apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said first illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in a standby mode, the light generated by said first illumination apparatus providing for a user a visual indication of the standby mode of the computer-pointing device; and
a second illumination apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said second illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in an an ~~[[a]]~~ input operating mode, the light generated by said second illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the input operating mode of the computer-pointing device.
2. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein the computer-pointing device comprises a mouse.
3. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus comprises a light-emitting diode, and wherein said second illumination apparatus comprises a light-emitting diode.
4. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus generates light having at least one attribute different than the light generated by said second illumination apparatus.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a third illumination apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said third illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in another mode different from the standby mode and the input operating mode, the light generated by said third illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of another mode of the computer-pointing device.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 6, wherein said first illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is not in contact with the user, wherein said second illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is being moved, and wherein said third illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is in contact with the user but the computer-pointing device is not being moved.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a switch, said switch allowing the user to disable the first illumination apparatus and the second illumination apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a time-delayed shut off switch, said time-delayed shut off switch causing the first illumination apparatus and the second illumination apparatus to be shut off after a period of inactivity.

10. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a user detection device operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said user detection device detecting when the user is accessing the computer-pointing device.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises an optical sensor.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises a thermal sensor.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises a mechanically activated switch.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 10, wherein said user detection device comprises a capacitance proximity sensor.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein a data processing system is operatively associated with the computer-pointing device, said data processing system receiving a data signal from the computer-pointing device that is indicative of the operating mode of the computer-pointing device, said data processing system processing the data signal so that said first illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is in the standby mode and so that said second illumination apparatus generates light when the computer-pointing device is in the input operating mode.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a control system, said control system actuating said first illumination apparatus when the computer-pointing device is in the standby mode, said control system actuating said second illumination apparatus when the computer-pointing device is in the input operating mode.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-pointing device of claim 1, wherein said first illumination apparatus and said second illumination apparatus comprise a single illumination apparatus.

18. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
providing a computer-pointing device with a first illumination apparatus and a second illumination apparatus;
determining whether the computer-pointing device is in a standby mode;
illuminating said first illumination apparatus if it is determined that the computer-pointing device is in the standby mode, the illumination of the first illumination apparatus providing for a user a visual indication of the standby mode of the computer-pointing device;
determining whether the computer-pointing device is in an input operating mode; and
illuminating said second illumination apparatus if it is determined that the computer-pointing device is in the input operating mode, the illumination of the second illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the input operating mode of the computer-pointing device.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising:
providing the computer-pointing device with a third illumination apparatus;
determining whether the computer-pointing device is in another mode that is different from the standby mode and the input operating mode; and

illuminating said third illumination apparatus if it is determined that the computer-pointing device is in the another mode, the illumination of the third illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of another mode of the computer-pointing device.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-pointing device, comprising:
means for providing for a user a first visual indication that the computer-pointing device is in a standby mode; and
means for providing the user a second visual indication that the computer-pointing device is in input operating mode.

21. (Previously Presented) A computer-pointing device, comprising:
a cursor movement control device, said cursor movement control device allowing a user to move a cursor on display apparatus operatively associated with the computer-pointing device;

a first illumination apparatus, said first illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in a standby mode, the light generated by said first illumination apparatus providing for a user a visual indication of the standby mode of the computer-pointing device; and

a second illumination apparatus, said second illumination apparatus generating light when the computer-pointing device is in an input operating mode, the light generated by said second illumination apparatus providing for the user a visual indication of the input operating mode of the computer-pointing device.